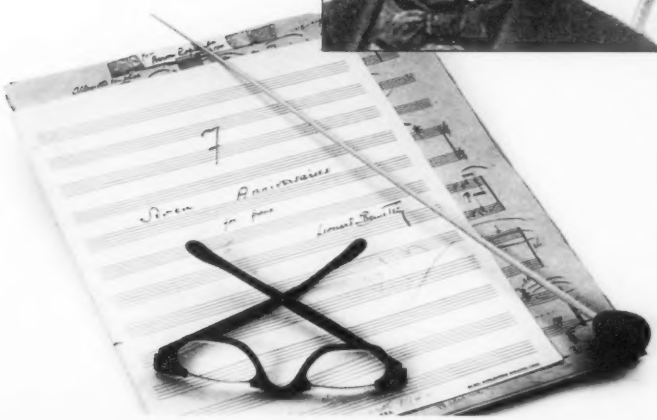
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL
2000
LIBRARIES • CREATIVITY • LIBERTY

The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS Information Bulletin

Vol. 58, No. 12 **December 1999**



Gifts to the Nation

The LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS
Information Bulletin

Vol. 58, No. 12 December 1999

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL
2000
LIBRARIES • CREATIVITY • LIBERTY

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

284

285

288

292

On the Cover: The Library has been the beneficiary of many gifts over the years, including these rarities. *For a description of the items pictured, see page 293.*

Cover Story: Throughout its history, the Library has relied on the generosity of donors to build its unparalleled collections. The Bicentennial Gifts to the Nation program is an effort to acquire materials that belong in the nation's library, which will share them with the American people. 292

Award Winning Web Site: The Library's National Digital Library Program won a GII Award for best educational site. 283

Freedom's Artist: A new exhibition of the work of Arthur Szyk has opened. 283

New Entries in the Registry: Dr. Billington has named 25 more films to the National Film Registry. 284

Feats of Strength: Actor Christopher Reeve was interviewed at the Library. 285

Bicentennial Background: Knowledge as a key to democracy is one of the principles on which the Library was founded. 286

Conservation Corner: A Mexican choral book from the 1500s poses special problems to paper and book conservators. 288

Eisenhower's Scribe: Geoffrey Perret discussed his new book on the 34th president. 290

World Blind Union Meets: The international organization for the blind met at the Library this fall. 291

The Historical Novel: A book on the work of Herman Wouk has been released by the Library. 294

Report on Kosovo: Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch delivered the fourth Vienna Lecture in November. 295

Writers Speak: Authors Claudio Magris and Gloria Kaiser spoke at the Library in separate fall programs. 296

Legal Friends: The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Law Library of Congress met this fall. 297

News from the Center for the Book 298

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* (ISSN 0041-7904) is issued monthly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States. It is also available on the World Wide Web at www.loc.gov/today.

Research institutions and educational organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Director for Acquisitions and Support Services, 101 Independence Avenue S.E., Washington DC 20540-4100. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave. S.E., Washington DC 20540-1610, e-mail lcib@loc.gov.

GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN H. SAYERS, Designer

Library Wins GII Award

Web Site Recognized for Educational Achievement

BY GUY LAMOLINARA

On Dec. 14 in San Francisco, the Library was recognized at the fourth annual Global Information Infrastructure (GII) Awards as the winner of the best Web site in Education.

Ziff-Davis's GII Awards are the world's leading forum to define, recognize and promote best practices and new models in the application of Internet and network technology. The honor, awarded to the Library's National Digital Library Program, was presented at a ceremony at the Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco on the evening of Dec. 14, in conjunction with the Nextravaganza conference, part of ZD Studios' Internet.inc series.

"On behalf of the Library's hard-working staff, I am honored to accept this prestigious award," said Dr. Billington. "The National Digital Library Program, with the help of Congress and private donors, is leading the way to the next millennium by providing unique, high quality educational content for Internet users throughout the nation and the world."

The award was accepted in San Francisco by Susan Veccia, manager for educational projects of the NDL Program.

The GII Awards program is a non-partisan, private-sector initiative sponsored by leading corporations, organizations, publishers and government agencies.

"The GII Awards honor people in all areas of society and industry who use the Internet to create extraordinary results, from making money to making a difference," said Melanie McMullen, general manager of the GII Awards and *The Standard for Internet Commerce*. "The Library of Congress is a visionary institution that exemplifies best practices and an innovative model in a new era of knowledge and communication."

The fourth annual GII Awards recognized achievement in 10 categories "that are central to the way people live, work and play": Arts and Culture; Children; Commerce; Community; Education; Entertainment; Government; Health; Netpreneur; and News and Media.

Other winners were:

- College of Computing, Arts and Culture category
- MaMaMedia, Children category
- E*Trade Group, Commerce category
- Join Together/Boston University School of Public Health, Community category
- As If Productions, Entertainment category
- Office of Information Resources Management, Enterprise Information Management Division, EPA, Government category
- BabyCenter, Health category
- Garden.com, Netpreneur category
- Cygnus Publishing, Inc. and Cool/Writer Internet, News and Media category

"This award reinforces the Library's efforts to use technology to make its collections as useful as possible to all Americans," said Laura Campbell, director of the NDL Program. "All the hundreds of LC staffers who have worked to make our Web site a leader in providing educational content share in this honor." ◆

Artist for Freedom

Szyk Exhibition Opens

The Library of Congress celebrates the recent acquisition of several important original works by Polish American artist and illustrator Arthur Szyk with an exhibition in the Swann Gallery. The exhibition, "Arthur Szyk: Artist for Freedom," curated by Harry Katz, closes on May 6, 2000. The gallery, located adjacent to the Visitors' Center in the Jefferson Building, is open to the public free of charge from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. An overview of the exhibition will appear in the January 2000 issue. ◆

Detail of *Statut de Kalisz*, signed in 1264 by the Grand Duke of Poland to affirm Jewish liberties. Illustrated by Arthur Szyk in 1928.

Preserving the Silver Screen

Librarian Names 25 More Films to National Film Registry

Dr. Billington has announced his annual selection of 25 motion pictures to be added to the National Film Registry. (See list, right.) This group of titles brings the total number of films placed on the Registry to 275.

Under the terms of the National Film Preservation Act, each year the Librarian of Congress names 25 "culturally, historically or aesthetically" significant motion pictures to the Registry. The list is designed to reflect the full breadth and diversity of America's film heritage, thus increasing public awareness of the richness of American cinema and the need for its preservation.

"Taken together, the 275 films in the National Film Registry represent a stunning range of American filmmaking — including Hollywood features, documentaries, avant-garde and amateur productions, films of regional interest, ethnic, animated and short film subjects — all deserving recognition, preservation and access by future generations. As we approach the millennium, the Registry stands among the finest summations of American cinema's wondrous first century" said Dr. Billington.

The Librarian chose this year's titles after evaluating more than a thousand titles nominated by the public and following intensive discussions, both with the distinguished members and alternates of his advisory body, the National Film Preservation Board, whom the Librarian consults both on Registry film selection and national film preservation policy, and the Library's own Motion Picture Division staff.

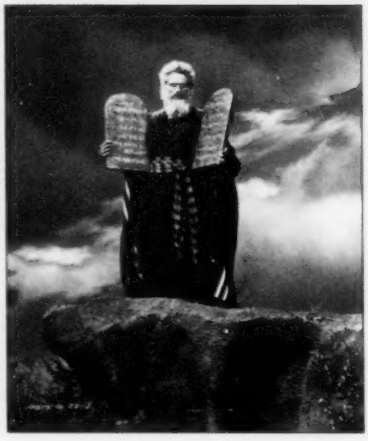
Dr. Billington added, "I am especially pleased that several Registry titles this year resulted from public input gathered through the "Candidates for the National Film Registry" screenings here in Washington."

"Our film heritage is America's living past. It celebrates the creativity and inventiveness of diverse communities and our nation as a whole. By preserving American films, we safeguard our history and build toward the future," said the Librarian.

continued on page 289

Films Named to the National Film Registry - 1999

Civilization (1916)
Do the Right Thing (1989)
The Docks of New York (1928)
Duck Amuck (1953)
The Emperor Jones (1933)
Gunga Din (1939)
In the Land of the Head-Hunters (a.k.a. In the Land of the War Canoes) (1914)
Jazz on a Summer's Day (1959)
King: A Filmed Record ... Montgomery to Memphis (1970)
The Kiss (1896)
Kiss Me Deadly (1955)
Lambchops (1929)
Laura (1944)
Master Hands (1936)
My Man Godfrey (1936)
Night of the Living Dead (1968)
The Plow that Broke the Plains (1936)
Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)
Roman Holiday (1953)
The Shop Around the Corner (1940)
A Streetcar Named Desire (1951)
The Ten Commandments (1956)
Trance and Dance in Bali (1938-39)
The Wild Bunch (1969)
Woman of the Year (1942)



New to the National Film Registry (from top): "A Streetcar Named Desire," "Night of the Living Dead," "Laura," "The Ten Commandments" and (below) "Roman Holiday."

Challenges of Endurance

Christopher Reeve Interviewed at the Library

By KATHLEEN CASSEDY

Christopher Reeve enjoyed early success as an actor and became a full-fledged movie star after successfully portraying the comic strip hero Superman in a series of four Hollywood movies made in the late 1970s and '80s. "I feel privileged to have been the custodian of that character who is so important to American culture," he remarked during a colloquy on Oct. 26, which was part of *Parade* magazine's "It's About Time" series with individuals whose lives and leadership have influenced culture at the end of this century.

Each program was conducted before audiences in the Coolidge Auditorium in the Jefferson Building and recorded for the Library's archives as a permanent record of what people thought and felt at the end of the 20th century. (An earlier program featured Michael Eisner, CEO and Chairman of the Walt Disney Co. See LC *Information Bulletin*, November 1999).

Mr. Reeve was strong, agile and active when, in 1995, his life took its own dramatic turn: an equestrian accident damaged his spinal cord, paralyzing him from the diaphragm down at age 38. "In face of initial despair, Mr. Reeve's wife, Dana, reminded him, 'You are still you,' and with her support and the support of family and friends, doctors and total strangers, Christopher Reeve became a powerful advocate for people with disabilities and increased funding for medical research," recounted Donald L. Scott, Deputy Librarian of Congress, as he introduced Reeve.

The interview was co-sponsored by the Library's Disability Employment Program, and in part by a generous contribution of Evergreen Aviation and its chairman, Dale Smith. The program's interviewer, Walter Anderson, editor of *Parade* magazine, conceived the series.

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Reeve why he became an actor. The answer was simple, yet profound: acting was paramount. "I had to be [an actor]," Mr. Reeve said, because "theater is love of language and ideas, and it's also a place where you can safely express your feelings and your emotional life. This was very important for me growing up. [It was] a safe place to explore what I had inside."

N. Alicia Byers

Actor Christopher Reeve was interviewed at the Library Oct. 26.

Mr. Reeve considers himself very lucky because he has been able to continue his career following the accident. He was recently cast as the lead in the remake of the Hitchcock film classic "Rear Window," which had starred Jimmy Stewart as a man temporarily bound to a wheelchair. Mr. Anderson described how, for one scene, Mr. Reeve insisted that his tube, which he needs for breathing, be cut so that he could realistically gasp for air. "I tell that story because of your commitment to detail, to reality, to truth, to acting," Mr. Anderson said.

N. Alicia Byers

***Parade* Editor Walter Anderson interviewed Mr. Reeve on the stage of the Library's Coolidge Auditorium.**

Since his accident, Mr. Reeve directed his first film, "In the Gloaming," which was nominated for five Emmys and won six Cable Ace Awards. He is currently preparing production for a romantic film, "Heartbreakers," that he will direct this spring in New York City.

Ever since high school, Mr. Reeve has been politically active. As president of the Creative Coalition, an arts organization concerned with First Amendment issues, he actively fought censorship. Now his passion is aimed at calling attention to the population explosion and fighting "medical injustices." As vice chairman of the National Organization for Disabilities (NOD), he works to improve the quality of life for the disabled. NOD helped to pass the 1999 Work Incentives Improvement Act, which allows people with disabilities to return to work and still receive disability benefits. Now NOD is working to change medical insurance policies that put a $1 million cap on insurance claims.

"It sounds like a lot [of money] until you have a devastating illness or condition, then you go through that in two or three years. We're fighting very hard to get caps raised to $10 million, which is not an unreasonable burden by the insurance companies," Mr. Reeve said. "The reason

continued on page 289

Bicentennial Background

'A Republic Which Rests Upon the Public Intelligence'

By JOHN Y. COLE

Knowledge as a key to democracy is one of the principles on which the Library of Congress was founded, and its Bicentennial programs highlight the active role the institution plays in fulfilling its mission to make its resources "available and useful to Congress and the American people." These programs include:

Local Legacies

There are now more than 1,000 Local Legacies projects taking place in every state and the District of Columbia. This effort, cosponsored by the U.S. Congress and the Library, is engaging volunteers to document the cultural traditions that make their area unique. A portion of this documentation will be sent to the Library for permanent residence in the American Folklife Center, and in May 2000, all members of Congress and Local Legacies participants will be invited to the Library to celebrate their contributions. A selection of the Local Legacies materials eventually will be available on the Library's Web site, so they can be seen by all.

Gifts to the Nation

The Gifts to the Nation Program, in which donors are helping the Library acquire rare and important materials for its collections, will enable the institution to make these items — many of which are in private hands — much more accessible.

National Digital Library (NDL) Program

The continuing expansion of the NDL Program (**www.loc.gov**) is another effort to share the riches of the nation's library with all Americans by making available on-line more than 5 million items relating to American history.

Yet the Library is not merely celebrating its own birthday. The Bicentennial theme "Libraries, Creativity, Liberty" reminds Americans that *all* libraries are the cornerstones of democracy.

Other Programs

Symposia, exhibitions, publications and the issuance of a U.S. commemorative stamp and two commemorative coins honoring the institution will also mark the Library's 200th birthday. Images of the Jefferson Building are featured in both the postage stamp and the two coins that will be issued on April 24, the Library's 200th birthday. The stamp features a photograph of the interior of the Main Reading Room's dome, an image that symbolizes the universality of knowledge reflected in the Library's collections and in the Main Reading Room's iconography. The two commemorative coins highlight the building's exterior, particularly the dome and the "Torch of Learning" at its apex.

The Library and Democracy: Looking Ahead to 2000

Thomas Jefferson's 1815 statement about why Congress should buy his wide-ranging personal library — "There is, in fact, no subject to which a member of Congress may not have occasion to refer" — has shaped the Library's philosophy of sharing its collections as widely as possible.

Thus it is fitting that an early contribution to the events of 2000 comes from the Congressional Research Service, which, on Feb. 29 – March 1, continues this Jeffersonian theme with a symposium on "Informing Congress and the Nation." Historian Merrill Peterson will discuss Congress and the nation during the middle years of the 19th century in his keynote address. Subsequent panels and presentations involving historians, former members of Congress and journalists will discuss the evolution of services to Congress and changing perceptions of Congress and the "informing function" itself.

Wisconsin's Sen. Robert M. La Follette, who sponsored the amendment in 1941 that established the Library's Legislative Reference Service (now Congressional Research Service); in the Great Hall of the Jefferson Building is Elihu Vedder's mural, *Government*.

Architect of the Capitol

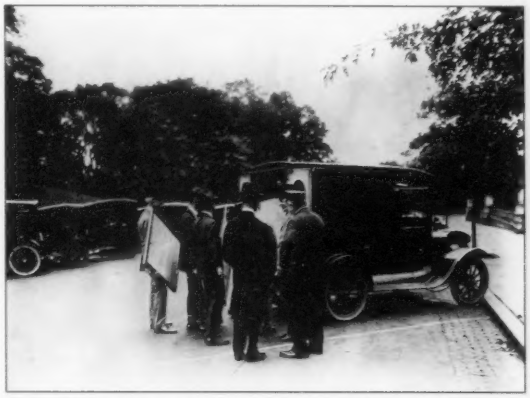
The next week, March 6-10, the Law Library takes the lead in the Bicentennial symposium "Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order." Cosponsored with New York University and organized in cooperation with the Library's Office of Scholarly Programs, this conference will focus in part on the Library's increasingly important role as an international resource for law and public policy.

A major event on April 24 will be the opening of the exhibition "Thomas Jefferson." It will explore Jefferson's "dreams of the future" through books and documents that influenced him as well as the works that he produced, drawing on the Library's unparalleled collection of Jefferson material. The exhibition's last area will present the library that Jefferson sold to the Library of Congress in 1815. It will integrate existing volumes with replacement books, acquired as Bicentennial "Gifts to the Nation," and representations of volumes still needed to re-create the personal library at the core of Jefferson's "genius." The exhibition's accompanying 176-page hardcover book, with an introduction by Garry Wills, will be published by Viking Studio Press in cooperation with the Library.

Three other Bicentennial publications are under way. Each, in its own way, celebrates the Library's unique connection through Congress and the legislative branch to the American people. In April 2000 Yale University Press will publish *America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress, 1800-2000*, by James Conaway. A new guidebook, *The Nation's Library: The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*, by Alan Bisbort and Linda Barrett Osborne, will be published later in the year by Scala Books. A one-volume reference work, *The Encyclopedia of the Library of Congress*, edited by this writer and Jane Aikin, will be published in late 2000 or early 2001. All three books are being developed and published in cooperation with the Library's Publishing Office.

The Library and Democracy: Some Milestones

Ainsworth Rand Spofford, Librarian of Congress in 1864-1897, applied Jefferson's concept on a grand scale and permanently linked the Library's legislative and national functions. It was imperative, Spofford felt, that the great national collection he was developing (largely through copyright deposits) be shared with all citizens, for the United States was "a Republic which rests upon the public intelligence." Once the Jefferson Building opened to the public in 1897, the Library's collections and services could be shared fully with the people. The building itself is replete with works of art, quotations and inscriptions celebrating both knowledge and democracy. Among the most notable and conspicuously located artworks (above the entrance to the Main Reading Room from the Great Hall) are Elihu Vedder's five small but stunning paintings about "Government" and its vital links to learning.



The transfer of the Declaration of Independence from the State Department to the Library — via mail wagon — on Sept. 30, 1921; the Library's statue of James Madison by Walker Hancock. The nation's fourth president is memorialized in the Library's Madison building.

Librarian of Congress Herbert Putnam (1899-1939) made the Library the home of many of America's sacred political documents. In 1903 he persuaded his friend President Theodore Roosevelt to issue an executive order transferring the records and papers of the Continental Congress and the personal papers of Washington, Madison, Jefferson, Hamilton, Monroe and Franklin to the Library from the State Department. In 1921 the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were transferred to the Library, where they were displayed in a "shrine" in the Great Hall from 1924 until 1952, when the two documents were transferred to the National Archives. In 1925, in his new book, *Epic of America*, historian James Truslow Adams paid an elaborate tribute to the Library, which he saw "as a symbol of what democracy can accomplish on its own behalf."

Each Librarian of Congress since Putnam has found ways to emphasize the Library's role as a cornerstone of democracy. A wartime Librarian (1939-1944), Archibald MacLeish, spoke eloquently about the importance of libraries, librarians and the Library of Congress in preserving democracy. One of his many projects was the creation in 1941 of a "democracy alcove" in the Main Reading Room, a place where "readers may find the classic texts of the American tradition," along with the writings of American statesmen, "analyses of the theory and practice of democracy" and related works.

The dedication of the Library's third major building on Capitol Hill as the nation's memorial to James Madison and the subsequent "renaming" of the other two buildings in honor of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams was a project spearheaded by Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin (1975-1987).

Since the early 1990s, Dr. Billington has led the Library in projects focusing on "democracy-building" in other countries. First the Library provided advice to parliamentary libraries in the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Recently, the Russian Leadership Program (**www.loc.gov/rlp**) has brought emerging political leaders from most of the Russian Federation states and republics to the United States to witness democracy in action. ◆

John Cole is director of the Center of the Book and co-chair of the Bicentennial Steering Committee.

Conservation Corner

Mexican 1500s Choral Book Poses Questions

By MARK ROOSA

The second edition of the 1576 *Graduale Dominicale*, a large choral book, is posing questions to paper and book conservators as it undergoes conservation treatment.

The book is being conserved because the text block was separated from the covers and the patched pages were dirty, discolored, stained and had become stiffened with age.

Received by the Music Division in 1940 as a gift from the Friends of Music in the Library of Congress, the *Graduale Dominicale* is the first 16th century American musical imprint in the Library's collections.

Said Music Division Chief Jon W. Newsom: "The *Graduale* is an early example of a liturgical book with music published in many of the Spanish colonies, and it is among the first books containing music printed in the Americas. The copy of the *Graduale* at the Library of Congress contains chants for the Proper of the Mass for the feasts of the Temporale for the whole liturgical year from the first Sunday in Advent to the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost."

With paper conservation mostly complete save for the question of where the paper came from, conservators at the Library and scholars in Mexico are consulting about the mysterious binding.

There are four known copies of the book. In addition to the one held by the Music Division of the Library of Congress, copies are held by Biblioteca Nacional in Mexico, by the Newberry Library in Chicago, and in private hands in Mexico.

The 420-page book was printed on a woodblock press near Mexico City in the workshop of Antonio de Espinosa, a Spaniard, with the expenses paid by Pedro Ocharte, a Frenchman. Printed in red and black ink, it is remarkable for its large initial woodblock letters decorated with figures and symbols.

The book shows a lot of use and a wide variety of repairs over the years, including:

- the title page and colophon had been replaced,
- individual tears had been sewn or darned,
- other tears, gaps and losses were filled with patches of stiff Western or European paper,
- adhesives had caused damage and discoloration, and
- decorations were redrawn and text was filled in where parts of pages had been replaced.

The job of the Library paper conservators was to restore flexibility to the stiffly rippled paper and mend the tears and losses. Sewn repairs were left intact throughout the treatment.

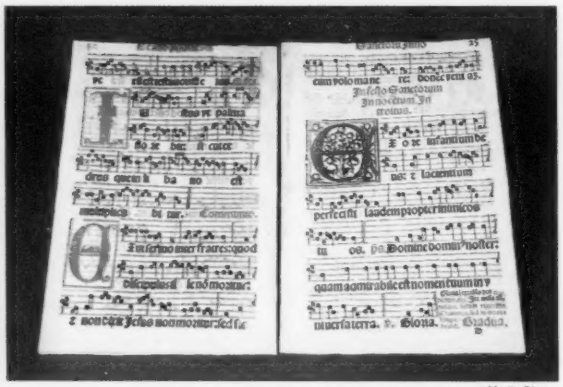
First, the volume was disbound. The pages were separated and the sewing was removed. Then the pages were washed to remove old sizing, and adhesive residues from patches were removed with local application of tepid water. The book was bathed in an alkaline bath to leave an alkaline reserve, which prolongs the life of the paper. Tears were then mended using wheat starch paste and strong Japanese paper, while losses were filled with acrylic-toned Japanese paper. Patches that contained writing were photocopied onto toned Japanese paper to retain the "historical fill," a Library conservation practice designed to replicate as closely as possible the previous repair treatments.

The handmade end papers and text block paper were not made by the same manufacturer. However they are from the same period, with the end papers probably French in origin, and the text block paper possibly originating in the New World, according to a fiber analysis.

Although research is continuing, "As yet, we don't have a corollary 16th century manuscript to make a comparison, so there are no conclusive findings. If it was made in the New World, it is one of the earliest examples of a European-style paper made in this hemisphere," said Senior Conservator Ann Seibert.

Paper was strictly controlled by the Spanish crown in the 16th century. But around the time this book was printed, the crown had given the earliest permission to produce paper in the New World. "This may be an example of that paper," said Ms. Seibert.

Marita Clance



Marita Clance

Two views of the 1576 *Graduale Dominicale:* on the left, prior to restoration work, and at right, after initial debinding and paper treatment.

The watermarks are few and very simple in design, which would be unusual for European paper of this time. Also, the sizing made the paper very stiff, unlike the more refined European papers of the time, she said.

While Ms. Seibert searches for clues as to the paper's origin, Senior Book Conservator Mary Wootton's charge is to create a cultur[illegible] and historically appropriate bi[illegible] that will provide good function[illegible]y to future researchers. To do so, Ms. Wootton is consulting with conservators over what appears to be an anachronistic binding. At issue is whether to rebind it in a hardback European style or a flexible Mexican style.

The exact date of the binding and whether it was original to the text is unclear. One reason for believing that the binding is not original is that there appear to be sewing holes from previous bindings in the spines of the folios. The binding is of goatskin over wooden boards laced on three leather thongs. Most specialists feel it is not an original but an 1800s replica using early techniques.

Conservators are aware of both Northern and Southern European influences on printing and binding in Mexico at the time the book was created. They also know that the monasteries where the book was probably repaired over the years employed archaic methods. However, on a private visit to Mexico, Ms. Seibert was shown by curators at the Centro de Estudio de Historia de Mexico numerous works contemporaneous with *Dominicale Graduale* consistently bound in limp vellum bindings. Limp vellum, which was also used at the time in Europe, was the predominant style in Mexico.

"We are deciding whether to reproduce a European binding with wooden boards and clasps or to reproduce what we have been led to understand is more of the Mexican approach in the 16th century, which consisted of flexible, or limp, vellum without boards," said Ms. Wootton.

Adding to the mystery of the paper and binding are the missing original title page and colophon, or bibliographical data at the end of a book. They were replaced with manuscript copies written on the back of a monthly liturgical calendar. The copies appear to have been made from a second edition of the book, but it is not known when they were made.

Another clue that the volume has been rebound is evidence that a previous decorated edge had been cut off. The paper appears to have been trimmed dramatically, in some cases up to and including the printing. In their research, conservators saw slides of the copy held by the Newberry Library, which has wide margins before the type begins. In the Library's copy, one edge of the trimmed text block had been decorated in red, as witnessed by paper that had been folded in and escaped trimming.

Another puzzler is that the end papers and flyleafs pasted down on the possibly newer boards appear to be contemporary with the printing of the book rather than the bindings.

It will take a bibliographic Sherlock Holmes to re-create the mysterious history of the 443-year-old *Graduale Dominicale*. But after it is treated, it will be available to researchers who might do just that. Their findings would be music to many ears. ◆

Mr. Roosa is chief of the Conservation Division. Yvonne French, a fellow in the Library's Leadership Development Program, contributed to this report.

Film
continued from page 285

"Despite the heroic efforts of archives, the motion picture industry and others, America's film heritage, by any measure, is an endangered species. Fifty percent of the films produced before 1950 and at least 90 percent made before 1920 have disappeared forever. Sadly, our enthusiasm for watching films has proved far greater than our commitment to preserving them. And, ominously, more films are lost each year — through the ravages of nitrate deterioration, color-fading and the recently discovered 'vinegar syndrome,' which threatens the acetate-based [safety] film stock on which the vast majority of motion pictures, past and present, have been preserved," said Dr. Billington.

For each title named to the Registry, the Library of Congress works to ensure that the film is preserved for all time, either through the Library's massive motion picture preservation program at Dayton, Ohio, or through collaborative ventures with other archives, motion picture studios and independent filmmakers. The Library of Congress contains the largest collections of film and television in the world, from the earliest surviving copyrighted motion picture to the latest feature releases.

For more information, please consult the National Film Preservation Board Web site: **www.loc.gov/film**. ◆

Reeve
continued from page 285

insurance companies do this is because only 30 percent of people who are denied essential services fight back."

Mr. Reeve also chairs the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, which funds research for spinal-cord injury paralysis and afflictions of the brain and central nervous system. Mr. Reeve says he feels very lucky because medical research is on the threshold of a cure for spinal injuries. His health has also been improving, so that he can move his diaphragm and breathe for periods of time without using his tube, and he has gained full sensation at the base of his spine. He is also inspired by the hundreds of thousands of letters he has received from people all over the world.

While Mr. Reeve has been identified with the hero Superman, his own heroes are very different. They are the people he has met in the hospitals and rehabilitation centers. They are "people who have had to endure terrible catastrophes in their lives, and don't have the resources they need to overcome them. Yet they fight everyday for the best quality of life they can manage," he explained. "They aren't larger than life, they can't walk through walls. In fact, they've got walls all around them, yet they accept, and they go forward to meet incredible challenges of endurance. … These people are my heroes."

Mr. Reeve hopes "that in the next century, there will be greater understanding, greater tolerance and less of the profit motive that is driving [insurance] agencies." If the standing ovation he received was any indication, his audience felt the same way too. ◆

Ms. Cassedy is a Washington free-lance writer.

Liking Ike

Eisenhower Biographer Speaks at Library

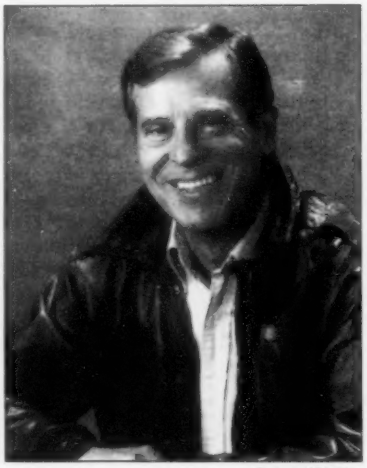
By JEFFREY FLANNERY

Dwight David Eisenhower presided over America's most important victories in World War II and the ending of the Korean War, and provided leadership of the free world at the height of the Cold War.

Ike was famous for his ear-to-ear grin, which conveyed an easygoing personality, but behind the grin was a determination and will to succeed that catapulted him from modest beginnings to world leader. On Nov. 1, during a noon lecture sponsored by the Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Division, author Geoffrey Perret presented a lively talk about his new biography, *Eisenhower*. Nattily attired in a three-piece brown suit (Ike's favorite color), Mr. Perret engaged an audience of more than 100 visitors and staff, plus C-SPAN cameras, by evoking penetrating images and challenging traditional assumptions about the nation's 34th president.

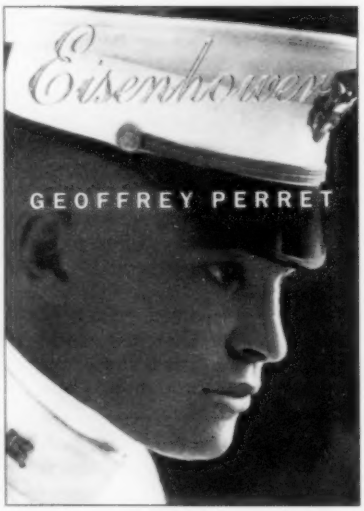
Geoffrey Perret served in the U.S. Army and was educated at Harvard and the University of Southern California, where he was elected Phi Beta Kappa, and the University of California at Berkeley. He is the author of 10 books, including *Days of Sadness, Years of Triumph*, a history of the homefront during World War II, and *America in the Twenties*. He has also written extensively on military subjects, including *A Country Made by War*, a study of American conflicts from the Revolution to Vietnam, and *There's a War to Be Won*, an account of the U.S. Army in World War II. His last two books have been biographies of Ulysses S. Grant and Douglas MacArthur. He is a devoted user of the Library's facilities and conducts much of his research in the Library's various reading rooms, including the Main, Manuscript, and Newspaper and Current Periodical reading rooms.

Born into a lower middle-class family of six sons and raised in Abilene, Kan., young Dwight Eisenhower was imbued with traditional values of thrift and hard work, chiefly imparted by his mother. An appointment to West Point in 1911 offered the dual opportunities of a free education and escape from small-town life. Mr. Perret stressed Ike's role as innovator. Eisenhower was responsible for training tank troops during World War I. His command initially suffered from a lack of equipment, operating without the benefit of a single tank. Mr. Perret revealed that an undeterred Eisenhower "trained men to become tank machine-gunners by bolting down machine guns to flatbed trucks, and had them practice firing at targets ... while the trucks jolted over the rough ground below."



Simsons of Beverley

Author Geoffrey Perret and his most recent work, *Eisenhower*



According to the author, it was Ike's vision that set him apart from other military thinkers. During the military demobilization following World War I, he recognized the tank as the main land weapon of the next war, and teamed up with George S. Patton. Reading an excerpt from his book, Mr. Perret characterized the bond between the two officers as a passionate belief in the tank as a harbinger of the future battlefield: "Here I am, announced this messenger in steel diapers, a being freshly created, yet I will shake the world and bring nations to their knees. My tracks are destiny. Where they go, humanity will follow and water them with its tears." As time went on, Eisenhower also foresaw the integrated role ground and air forces would play on the battlefield.

Success in World War II brought invitations from both major parties to run for public office. Accepting the 1952 nomination of the Republican Party, Eisenhower was elected, and then re-elected, to the presidency. Mr. Perret believes Ike's accomplishments as president are overlooked, and that in Cold War strategy, civil rights and the economy he was a more active and involved leader than previously thought; he also believes that Eisenhower's successes were the result of his long-term thinking.

In his personal life, Eisenhower struggled to overcome the death of his first-born son at an early age, and a marriage that suffered from long periods of enforced separation due to military service. He was also extraordinarily popular, said Mr. Perret, because "he identified with ordinary people so easily. The troubles that beset them — marital problems, uneasy relationships with their offspring, the death of a child, strong competition within their profession or business, problems with money or ill health — he had experienced all of these, despite his phenomenal success." ◆

Mr. Flannery is a manuscript reference librarian in the Manuscript Division.

World Blind Union Meets at Library

Group Honors Asteroid Named After Louis Braille

BY ROBERT FISTICK

The World Blind Union, the international association representing the world's blind individuals, met at the Library of Congress from Sept. 30 to Oct. 1 to hold its annual meeting of the North America/Caribbean Region.

Frank Kurt Cylke, director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress (NLS), hosted the meeting in the Jefferson Building. Mr. Cylke presented World Blind Union President Euclid Herie, chief executive officer of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, with a commemorative plaque honoring the naming of a new asteroid for Louis Braille, who invented the system of writing used by blind individuals throughout the world.

All delegates to the international meeting also received copies of the plaque, which depicts a NASA artist's conception of the July 28 *Deep Space 1* fly-by near the asteroid Braille.

"The World Blind Union is particularly pleased that the International Astronomical Union approved naming this new asteroid in honor of Louis Braille," said Mr. Herie. "Continuing world recognition of the importance of braille for blind individuals has been one of the World Blind Union's missions. We have been honored by the Library of Congress for making available this artist's rendering of the NASA fly-by of the asteroid Braille. This plaque will reside in the national libraries of the members of the North America/ Caribbean region of the World Blind Union. It will be a reminder to the people of the world of the importance of braille to blind individuals."

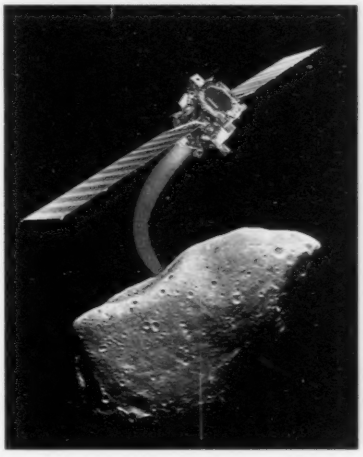
The lead discoverer of asteroid Braille, Eleanor Helin of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.; and the winner of the asteroid international naming contest, Kerry Babcock, a software engineer at the Kennedy Space Center, will, with Mr. Herie, be featured speakers at the Library's National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals, April 30-May 4, 2000, in Los Angeles.

Mr. Babcock's winning citation from the Planetary Society, which sponsored the worldwide contest, reads: "Louis Braille invented the braille language so those who could not see could obtain knowledge and explore through the 'written' word. Likewise, asteroid Braille provides knowledge about our universe and its origins to the people of Earth, who through *Deep Space 1*, are also able to explore and discover what previously they could not 'see'." Mr. Babcock began to learn to transcribe the braille system a few years ago and was so impressed with Louis Braille's achievement that he named his daughter "Braille."

"Inventions are the products of the human mind," said Ms. Helin, who, as discoverer, had the privilege of naming the asteroid. "It is particularly appropriate to honor Braille and his invention of a means of communication with the minds of humans who are otherwise limited in their ability to 'see' the outside world. Spacecraft such as *Deep Space 1*, in their own way, also provide a means for humans to 'see' other worlds," she said. ◆

Jim Higgins

Frank Kurt Cylke (right), director of the National Library Service for the Blind, presents a plaque depicting a NASA artist's conception of the *Deep Space 1* fly-by close to the Asteroid Braille on July 28 (below), to Euclid Herie, president of the World Blind Union.



Jim Higgins

Delegates to the World Blind Union meeting in the Jefferson Building's Wilson Room.

Mr. Fistick is head of the publications and media section of the NLS.

A hand-painted Persian celestial wooden globe, ca. 1650, purchased for the Library by its private-sector advisory and support group, the Madison Council; the contents of Abraham Lincoln's pockets on the night he was assassinated, on display in the "American Treasures of the Library of Congress" exhibition, made possible by Xerox, and donated to the Library in 1937 by Lincoln's granddaughter, Mary Lincoln Isham.

Gifts to the Nation

The Library Shares Its Collections with the People

BY GUY LAMOLINARA

The Library of Congress occupies a unique place in American civilization. For nearly 200 years, it has collected and preserved the nation's intellectual heritage. The collection of nearly 119 million items housed in the Library represents America's "creative legacy," and ranges from books, maps and manuscripts to photographs, motion pictures and music.

Although since 1870 the law has required that every copyrighted "book, pamphlet, map, chart, musical composition, print, engraving or photograph" be sent to the Library, there are still many other materials that do not fall under this law but nonetheless belong in the national library. Many of these materials have been acquired through gifts — either through the generosity of the creator or owner of the material, or through the beneficence of someone who has purchased the items for the collections. These gifts have benefited countless users of the Library's collections, many of whom travel from across the country, even the world, to gain access to these materials.

As its gift to the nation during its Bicentennial, the Library will make available on its Web site (www.loc.gov) 5 million items. A significant portion of these materials came to the Library as gifts. These materials can now be shared with anyone having access to the Internet.

With this in mind, and "to encourage participation in the Bicentennial by friends and donors, we are sponsoring a 'Gifts to the Nation' program in which a gift to the Library of Congress will benefit our millions of patrons nationwide," said Dr. Billington. "We have compiled a list of special acquisitions aiming to enrich the collections and make them available to the broadest possible public."

Without its benefactors, the Library would not have such treasures as the diaries of Orville and Wilbur Wright; the music of George and Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Leonard Bernstein; the outstanding Stern Collection of Abraham Lincoln materials, its largest collection of manuscripts — the NAACP archives; or the Rosenwald Collection of rare illustrated books from as far back as the 15th century, in addition to many other items.

"There are significant materials the Library is seeking to strengthen its collections; many of these can only be acquired through donations," said Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb. "As with all collections, the Library will preserve these gifts and make them available for future generations."

The Library's curators have identified these possible acquisitions. The Gifts to the Nation program is an opportunity to support the acquisition of these important cultural legacies, as well as the work of the scholars and curators who bring them to life.

A very special undertaking is the effort to rebuild the original core of the Library — Thomas Jefferson's vast and diverse personal collection — which he sold to Congress after the British burned the U.S. Capitol, where the Library was housed, in 1814. Tragically, in 1851, nearly two-thirds of Jefferson's library was destroyed in another Capitol fire. Jefferson believed that there was "no subject to which a member of Congress may not have the occasion to refer," and reconstructing his wide-ranging collection, the scope of which is reflected in the current Library of Congress holdings, will provide new insights into the mind of one of our nation's greatest thinkers and reinforce the Jeffersonian principle upon which the Library of Congress was built — that free access to information and knowledge is one of the cornerstones of democracy.

A 1999 gift of $1 million from Jerry and Gene Jones is supporting this effort. The Joneses are members of the

Library's private sector advisory group, the James Madison Council, which is headed by John Kluge.

Other gifts include:

• Thanks to the generosity of Edwin Cox, the Library has established for the first time in its history an endowment specifically to support these acquisitions. The "American Legacy Endowment" will help ensure that important materials, especially those that tell the story of America's past, will be held by the nation's library for study on site and through the National Digital Library Program.

• In an exchange of letters between Stonewall Jackson, Gen. Shields and Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks in 1862, Jackson discusses his refusal to exchange Union prisoners because Union troops have been firing on his hospital staff. Jackson letters are very rare, and these letters have been purchased with the help of Madison Council member Alyne Massey.

• The Library's purchase of the first American Haggadah, published in 1837, was aided by a gift of Lenier Temerlin of the Madison Council. The haggadah — a Hebrew liturgical text that is recited in the home during the Passover meal — is Judaism's most beloved book.

• A Persian celestial globe on a wooden sphere, ca. 1650, was donated by the Madison Council. This is the only know Islamic globe in the United States made of wood.

• The archives of dance legend Martha Graham, acquired through a grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, contain the complete manuscript, photographic and book collections of the most important American choreographer of the 20th century.

• A Bicentennial symposium, "Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order" has been funded by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Welters, Friends of the Law Library and New York University Law School.

• The Xerox Foundation, which funded the current exhibition "American Treasures of the Library of Congress," will also support "World Treasures of the Library of Congress," opening next spring.

On Nov. 18, during the fall meeting at the Library of the Madsion Council, Library curators showed members a selection of items the Library is interested in acquiring:

• The original archives of Orville and Wilbur Wright, which includes all material documenting the creation of the world's first aviation company. This collection would add to the Wright materials already in the Library of Congress.

• The first edition of the first map of Kentucky, produced in 1784 by John Filson. This map includes Filson's statement of appreciation to Daniel Boone and James Harrod, the frontiersmen who furnished details on which the map is based.

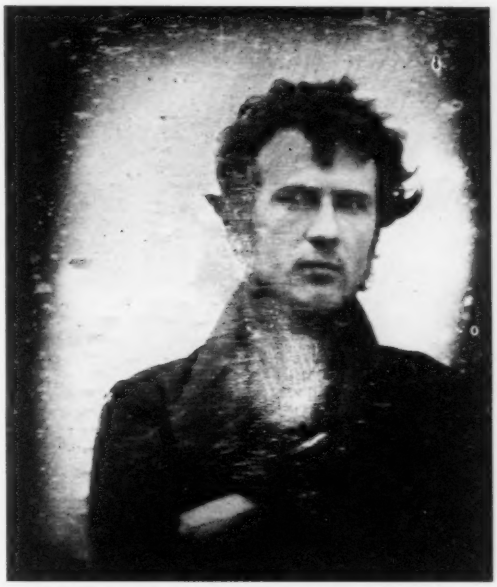
• The Max Liebman collection of 16mm kinescope prints of more than 400 hours of original 1950s television programming, including 140 original broadcasts of "Your Show of Shows."

• The papers of Philip Roth (b. 1933), one of the most important writers in America.

• The foremost collection of Hebraica in private hands — an assemblage of more than 10,000 items. Acquiring this collection would catapult the Library's Hebraica collections into the first rank of Judaica institutions around the world and provide resources to create a comprehensive and unique research center.

The Library is also seeking donations to create endowed chairs to create a scholarly community to mine and put to use the great depth and scope of the collections and share their knowledge with the world. A gift from Alexander Papamarkou is funding a chair in education at the Library beginning next year. The scholar filling this position will contribute to the educational initiatives of the National Digital Library Program.

"With our Gifts to the Nation program the Library hopes to increase its already remarkable collections and make them even more responsive to the research needs of the nation," said Mr. Tabb. ◆



This self-portrait daguerreotype by Robert Cornelius, Philadelphia, 1839, is believed to be the first photograph of the human face.

For more information about the Library's Gifts to the Nation program, contact Winston Tabb, Associate Librarian for Library Services, at (202) 707-6240, or Norma Baker, Director of the Development Office, at (202) 707-2777. The Library's Bicentennial Web site (www.loc.gov/bicentennial) also contains a Gifts to the Nation section.

On the Cover:

Gifts to the Nation include (clockwise from top left): a photo from the 1960s civil rights photograph collection of James E. Hinton; the first page of the Book of Genesis from the Giant Bible of Mainz (*Biblia Latina*), a gift of Lessing J. Rosenwald; signature illustration from the American Memory Web site, "We'll Sing to Abe Our Song: Sheet Music About Lincoln, Emancipation and the Civil War from the Alfred Whital Stern Collection of Lincolniana" (*photo illustration by Andrea Dillon*); photographer Milton Rogovin's "Man with Baby," from the series "Buffalo's Lower West Side," 1972; and the manuscript of "Seven Anniversaries," Leonard Bernstein's glasses and the baton he used to conduct his final concert in 1980 (*photo by Jim Higgins*).

The Words of Wouk

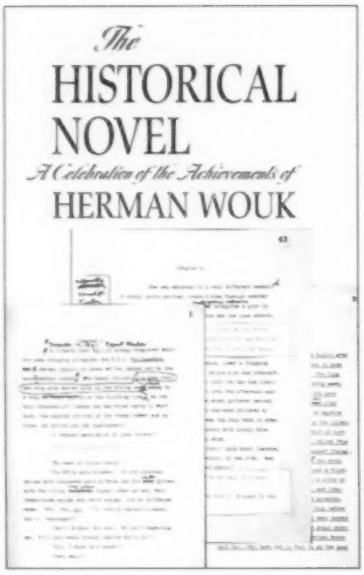
Novelist Honored in New Library Publication

The Historical Novel: A Celebration of the Achievements of Herman Wouk has just been published by the Library of Congress. Edited by Barbara A. Paulson, the book is based on discussions about the nature of historical fiction and tributes to Herman Wouk that took place at the Library of Congress on May 15, 1995. Sponsored by the Center for the Book, the event marked the gift by Mr. Wouk to the Library of Congress of the manuscripts of five of his historical novels (*Winds of War, War and Remembrance, Inside Outside, The Hope* and *The Glory*).

During the day a distinguished group of 17 writers, historians, publishers, and librarians discussed historical fiction as a genre and Herman Wouk's achievements.. Their comments have been edited for the book, which concludes with Mr. Wouk's after-dinner address, "L'Envoi: A Personal Vision of the Historical Fiction to Which I Have Devoted Thirty Years."

The book, after introductions by Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole and Editor Barbara A. Paulson, begins with remarks from biographer Robert Caro, who recalled his reading of Mr. Wouk's *The Caine Mutiny* on the New York subway. He also noted that any symposium on Herman Wouk was really "a symposium on the whole 20th century."

The Historical Novel is divided into five sections:



• Contributors to "Sources and Resources for Historical Fiction" are Jean Ashton of Columbia University ("Research Institutions and the Historical Novel") and Alice Birney of the Library of Congress ("Library of Congress Resources for Research on the Historical Novel").

• "The Historical Novel in Literature and Society" contains contributions by novelists Alan Cheuse ("Bringing History to Life"), Mary Lee Settle ("Language and Memory") and George Garrett ("Historical Memory: Living in a Foreign Country"), and literary scholars James L.W. West III ("The Consequences of Historical Fiction") and Andrew Delbanco ("Can Historical Fiction Tell the Truth?").

• Essays by four publishers constitute "Historical Fiction in the Marketplace": Brigitte Weeks ("Why Do We Read Historical Novels?"), William D. Phillips ("Is the Historical Novel Selling?"), Emilie Buchwald ("Publishing and Marketing Historical Fiction from the Perspective of a Literary Nonprofit Press") and Simon Michael Bessie ("The Role of the Publisher Is to Applaud").

• "History and the Novel" contains essays by historians and Christopher Collier ("Criteria for the Historical Novel as a Teaching Tool") and Martin Gilbert ("The Truth of Historical Fiction") and columnist and novelist William Safire ("The Sense of Scene").

• Herman Wouk ("*War and Remembrance*") and historians Darden Asbury Pyron ("*Gone With the Wind*. Novel and Film") David McCullough ("Accuracy and Imagination") contributed to "The Historical Novel on Film," the concluding section of the book and the symposium itself.

A 118-page book illustrated with black-and-white photographs that document the symposium, *The Historical Novel: A Celebration of the Achievements of Herman Wouk* is available for $9.95 from the Library of Congress Sales Shop. Credit card orders may be placed with the Sales Shop by calling (202) 707-0204.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress was established in 1977 to stimulate public interest in books, reading and libraries. This celebration of the achievements of Herman Wouk continues a series of Center for the Book events that honor prominent citizens of the world of books. For information about the Center for the Book and its activities, visit its Web site: **www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook**. ◆

Dr. Billington and Herman Wouk during a symposium on the author's work held at the Library in 1995. A new book on Mr. Wouk's work is based on that symposium.

International Involvement

Envoy to the Balkans Speaks on Kosovo

BY PROSSER GIFFORD

Speaking to invited luncheon guests on Nov. 9, Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch delivered the fourth annual Vienna Lecture. The series was initiated as a way to provide an Austrian perspective on important European issues.

This year's speaker, who is the International Community's High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, squeezed a visit to Washington between his briefing of the Security Council in New York and an immediate return to Sarajevo. The mandate of the High Representative is to oversee the civilian implementation of the Dayton Peace Accord of 1995.

Ambassador Petritsch, an Austrian career diplomat, was the European Union's Special Envoy to Kosovo. He addressed issues that are of crucial significance to Westerners: "How — and for how long — should the international community remain involved in the Balkans?" His answer, in brief, was for a long time — in order to build a functioning civil society so that the Balkan region can be integrated into the European family of nations. What is required is the building of a sustainable society capable of governing itself.

He argued that it is not enough to rebuild the region's moribund economy. What is crucial is reform of the state and the establishment of human security — reforming the institutional environment and establishing the rule of law. "We need to be courageous as well as creative." The Albanians must not be permitted to build a mono-ethnic state in Kosovo, he said. "We need to shift the political discourse from historical claims, which conflict and contradict, to the needs of the future, which overlap and complement." The first step is the full implementation of the Dayton accords.

Ambassador Wolfgang Petritsch

Ambassador Petritsch said it will be difficult to overcome the "culture of dependency" in Bosnia. He insisted that the citizens of Bosnia eventually must take responsibility for the process of tackling the underlying causes for societal tensions — an alien idea to many people who have never experienced "civil society."

On Oct. 27, 1999, as High Representative, he took an important step in laying down property law reform and uniform procedures for property repossession. This will enable thousands of refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes. A second crucial step is a reformed election law, which will provide accountability and transparency in the political process, enabling voters for the first time to select representatives by name and personality (rather than simply by party). Candidates will have to come from and live in the region they represent. The goal is to increase political moderation and attention to issues such as the economy, education and housing, rather than a pre-occupation with the past.

Ambassador Petritsch ended his talk with a plea for an "international civil service" – police units and trainers, democratization and media experts, human rights monitors and ombudsmen. He believes that the necessary deconstruction of the myths of Balkan history can only be achieved by a vibrant civil society that will deal with its past objectively. ◆

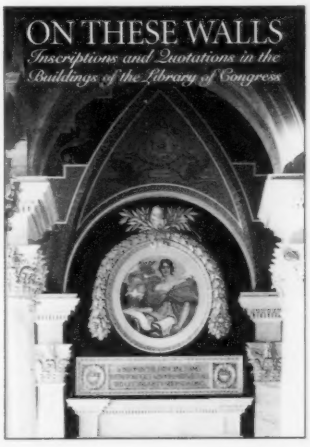
Mr. Gifford is the director of the Office of Scholarly Programs.

On These Walls

Library Best-Seller Reprinted

The Library has reprinted *On These Walls: Inscriptions and Quotations in the Buildings of the Library of Congress* (1995) by John Y. Cole, the director of the Center for the Book. "It's the best-selling book in the Library Sales Shop," said retail marketing officer Anna Lee. "Visitors use it as they tour the buildings and love to keep it as a souvenir, especially of the Jefferson Building. The new printing of 10,000 copies will keep us in stock for a while."

The well-illustrated 106-page book, which includes a comprehensive "Index and Guide to Names" compiled by Center for the Book Program Officer Maurvene D. Williams, is available for $8.50 from the Library of Congress Sales Shop, Washington, DC 20540-4920. To order by credit card, call (202) 707-0204. ◆



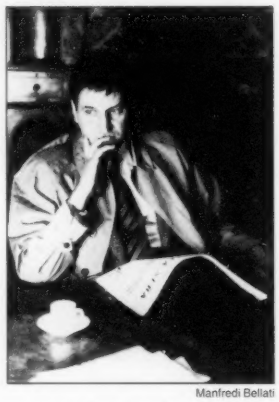
Italian Microcosms

Author Magris Discusses His Work

BY ERIC SOLSTEN

In a program co-sponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute, the Embassy of Italy and the Library's European Division, Italian writer Claudio Magris presented his latest work, *Microcosms*, to a packed audience in the Mumford Room of the Madison Building on Oct. 22.

Born in 1939, Mr. Magris began his literary career in 1963 when, at the age of 24, he published his first book, *Il mito absburgo nella letteratura austriaca moderna* (*The Hapsburg Myth in Modern Austrian Literature*). Working as a novelist, essayist and professor of German literature at the University of Trieste, throughout his career Mr. Magris has continued to probe many of the subjects central to his first book. He has written that even as *Mitteleuropa* (Central Europe) experienced a crisis of political and intellectual dissolution, the Hapsburg Empire was able to forge from its diversity an order and harmony in which such writers as Arthur Schnitzler, Hugo von Hofmansthal, Karl Kraus, Franz Kafka and Joseph Roth could thrive. These writers were able to document this dissolution and reveal the existential predicament of individuals faced with the cultural crisis of a once monolithic social order.



Manfredi Bellati

Claudio Magris

Mr. Magris's first novel, *Inferences on a Sabre*, which appeared in Italian in 1984 and in English in 1990, tells the story of Cossacks brought to northeastern Italy late in World War II by the Germans who told them they would be given a new homeland there if they fought against the advancing Red Army. Eager for a homeland with borders, the Cossacks complied, only to be betrayed and slaughtered at war's end.

Mr. Magris's most critically acclaimed works are *Danube*, published in Italy in 1986 and in the United States in 1989, and *Microcosms*, which was published in Italy in 1997 where it won the Strega Prize,

continued on page 297

Lecturer Links Austrian and Brazilian Authors

BY PROSSER GIFFORD

On Nov. 9 Austrian prize-winning novelist Gloria Kaiser spoke in the Pickford theater on the subject of "exile literature."

Using Stefan Zweig of Austria and Jorge Amado of Brazil as examples, she stressed the strong historical links between Brazil and Austria, and the transforming experiences that affected both of these enormously popular writers as a result of exile from their native countries.

Austrian writer Stefan Zweig, born in Vienna in 1881, wrote poetry, critical essays, short stories and biographies, becoming one of the most widely read authors writing in German during the 1920s and '30s. Forced to leave Austria by the Nazis in 1934, he chose to go to Brazil, where during the last year of his life he wrote *The Royal Game*. In February 1942, with no end to his exile in sight and overcome by depression, he and his wife, Lotte, committed suicide in Petropolis, Brazil.

Written in a concise, spare language, very different from his earlier work, *The Royal Game* describes what it is like to be deprived of all human contact, living in a windowless room. The protagonist, Br. B., manages to keep sane by playing chess against himself using the checkered bedspread. Gloria Kaiser felt that the book mirrored Zweig's personal anguish — "internal disequilibrium" was his description — of being deprived of his native language.

Jorge Amado was forced to leave Brazil in 1948 because of his political activity. Born in Ilheus in northeastern Brazil in 1912, he spent his childhood on his parents' cocoa farm. Sent away to Jesuit school at the age of 10, he eventually rebelled, turned against a career as a lawyer and wrote his first novel at the age of 18. Three years later, he published *Cacau*, and the following year *Suor* ("Sweat"). Both of these novels told of the exploitation of the workers on the cocoa farms. In 1933, soon after its publication, *Cacau* was banned for its socialist messages. (The Library of Congress has one of the very rare surviving copies.) Amado joined the Communist Party, was arrested repeatedly, and then when Communist political activity was forbidden in Brazil, he left for Europe. Although his exile was relatively brief, the experience changed him and his tactics. Ms. Kaiser quotes him as saying upon his return, "Humor rather than political discourse is the novelist's weapon to fight against injustice and exploitation." He wrote *Gabriela* in 1958 (also about the cocoa-producing town of Ilheus), and it was an instantaneous success. His new approach and tonalities characterize all his later novels.

Gloria Kaiser has done extensive research at the Library and has lectured here on previous occasions. She also writes juvenile literature and plays and does readings for the Austrian national broadcasting system. Her two most recent books *Dona Leopoldina* (1994) and *Pedro II* (1997), treating the Hapsburg royalty who became rulers in Brazil, are widely read in Brazil. Both have been translated into English and are available from the Ariadne Press. ◆

Mr. Gifford is the director of the Office of Scholarly Programs.

Magris
continued from page 296

Italy's top literary award; it is being published in English by Harvill Press. Both books are written in the form of travelogues that range widely through time and space. *Danube* follows the course of the Danube River from its origins to the Black Sea; *Microcosms* begins and ends in Trieste, with excursions to other areas of Italy, such as Turin. It consists of a series of stories about memorable and well-defined characters, one of which was read by a professional actress, Melissa O'Connor, in English. Mr. Magris read another selection from the book in Italian.

The program was introduced by John Van Oudenaren, the chief of the European Division, and Professor Roberto Severino, chairman of the Italian Department at Georgetown University, who placed Mr. Magris in the broader context of Italian and European literature. Professor Severino noted that in his latest book, a collection of essays not yet translated into English, Mr. Magris wrote that the task of the writer is to take shipwrecked lives out of the water and "take them aboard a precarious Noah's Ark made of paper." This rescue attempt is a utopian one, but "utopia gives meaning to life because, contrary to any realistic expectation, it demands that life must have a meaning."

During a question-and-answer session that followed the readings, Mr. Magris spoke about literature, other writers he has known and admired and the art of writing. He observed that "literature is a journey from the known to the unknown, and from the unknown to the known" and said that only after he has written the first third of a book does he know what he is writing. Speaking about the ultimate journey from life to death that figures in his books, he quoted a Hasidic proverb: "Man comes from dust and returns to dust, but in the meantime he can drink a glass of wine."

A constant theme in his writing, Mr. Magris said, was borders of every kind: national, political, social, psychological and linguistic. He stated that his fascination with borders no doubt stems from the fact that he grew up in Trieste, which is on the border between Italy and Yugoslavia. As a very young child, he could travel eastward from Trieste, but with the creation of the Iron Curtain after World War II, these well-known areas suddenly were closed to him.

Mr. Magris noted that literature can be a journey across borders of any kind. ◆

Mr. Solsten is a reference librarian in the European Division.

Among Friends

Law Library Group Holds Fall Meeting

BY ANNE MERCER

The Friends of the Law Library of Congress held its annual meeting of the Board of Directors on Oct. 22 in the Madison Building offices of the Law Library of Congress. Abe Krash, president of the Friends, presided over the meeting, which drew members from as far away as Austin, Texas, and New York City.

Board members (from left): Executive Director Anne Mercer, President Abe Krash, Law Librarian of Congress Rubens Medina, Betty Southard Murphy, Paul Warnke, John Jenkins, Kenneth Halajian, Kathleen Price, Charles Mathias and Keith Ann Stiverson.

Law Librarian Rubens Medina presented his annual report and brought the members up to date on the project for which they had provided the seed money, the upcoming conference in March 2000, "Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order." The conference, cosponsored by the New York University School of Law, will bring together about 100 legal scholars, judges, legislators and social scientists from jurisdictions all over the world to discuss the bearing of changing legal patterns on the relationships between law and democracy. Following this report, the board voted to make an additional gift to the Law Library to help defray the costs of the project.

Other items on the agenda included the election of new officers to the Board, selection of a winner for the annual Wickersham Award, presented at the Wickersham Award Dinner in March at the Supreme Court, and a review of the Friends' mission statement in connection with possible future programs.

The Friends is a nonprofit organization founded in 1932 by some of the country's most distinguished jurists. Today the membership includes attorneys, publishers, scholars and librarians across the nation committed to support the preservation and growth of the Law Library of Congress, the largest and most comprehensive source of legal information in the world. It currently has holdings of more than 2.3 million volumes, foreign legal specialists to analyze and interpret the collection and its own digital initiative, the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN), a cooperative parliament-to-parliament legal database, as well as the National Digital Library's award-winning legal component, "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates 1774 -1873." ◆

Ms. Mercer is executive director of the Friends of the Law Library of Congress.

News from the Center for the Book

Massachusetts Center for the Book Approved

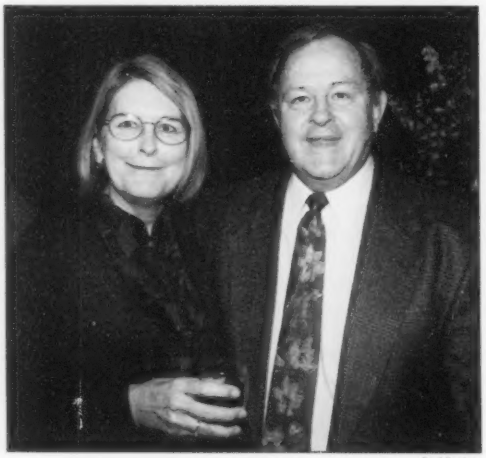
The Library of Congress has approved a proposal for a Massachusetts Center for the Book that will be affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. "We're delighted to welcome Massachusetts to our growing network of affiliated state centers," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole during an Oct. 15 reception at the Library of Congress celebrating the new state center.

A collaborative effort among six Massachusetts organizations, the new center will be located at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, one of the members of the Massachusetts Center for the Book's Board of Governors. The other members are the American Antiquarian Society, the Boston Public Library, Five Colleges Inc. (Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke and Smith colleges, along with the University of Massachusetts Amherst), the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities.

Jim Higgins

Director of the Center for the Book John Cole (far left) with members of the new Board of Governors of the Massachusetts Center for the Book: David Tebaldi, Cora Marrett, Joseph Hopkins, John Hench, Diane Bell, Bernard Margolis and Margo Crist.

"It's been a complicated process and taken a few years, but we are delighted that Massachusetts finally has a Center for the Book," said Margo Crist, director of libraries for the University of Massachusetts Amherst, who represented the host institution in the planning meetings. "The unique partnership we have formed will give a real boost to all aspects of the book in Massachusetts. We will work with organizations and individuals throughout the commonwealth to stimulate widespread interest in books, authorship, publishing, reading, libraries and literacy and to encourage the study of the history, art and future of books."



Jim Higgins

The Center for the Book's Anne Boni with John Kominski, former Library of Congress general counsel and a trustee of the Massachusetts Friends of the Library.

The Oct. 15 event was sponsored by the Friends of the Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst and the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Ms. Crist moderated the program. John Kominski, former Library of Congress general counsel and a trustee of the Massachusetts Friends of the Library, was a special guest. James Kelly of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Library, a driving force behind the creation of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, spoke briefly, as did the following representatives of the new center's Board of Governors: John Hench, American Antiquarian Society; Bernard Margolis, Boston Public Library; Diane Bell, Five Colleges Inc.; Joseph Hopkins, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; David Tebaldi, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities; and Cora Marrett, University of Massachusetts Amherst. A series of launching celebrations at various locations throughout Massachusetts is being planned.

For information about the Massachusetts Center for the Book, contact Sharon Shaloo, Executive Director, Director's Office, DuBois Library, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01033, telephone: (413) 545-2029, fax: (413) 545-6873.

Center for the Book Receives Bicentennial 'Gift to the Nation'

Madison Council member Brian Heidtke, vice president of Colgate-Palmolive Co., and his wife, Darlene, a former librarian, have made a $250,000 "Gift to the Nation" to support the development of state centers for the book affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Describing why he and his wife decided to establish the State Center for the Book Trust Fund, Mr. Heidtke said: "Darlene and I wanted our gift to help the Library of Congress promote grassroots reading and literacy projects in every part of the country. We hope our gift will inspire others to join us in this effort."

Former librarian Darlene Heidtke and her husband, Brian Heidtke, vice president of Colgate-Palmolive Co., have made a gift to support state centers for the book.

"Brian and Darlene have been strong and loyal supporters of the Center for the Book since they became Madison Council members in 1991," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. "Their most recent donation, this generous "Gift to the Nation" on the occasion of the Library's Bicentennial, will make an enormous difference in the Center for the Book's efforts to stimulate interest in reading. It will help us strengthen our current projects and help us encourage the creation of new centers in many states."

The Heidtkes' gift was featured in the June 1999 issue *of Jefferson's Legacy*, a quarterly charitable-giving newsletter published by the Library's Development Office. The newsletter highlighted the Center for the Book as a worthwhile recipient for contributions from citizens and corporations, pointing out that it depends on tax-deductible donations from individuals, corporations and foundations to support its projects and publications.

Vermont's 'Mother Goose' Project Begins Second Year

"Mother Goose Asks 'Why?'," the Vermont Center for the Book's family science and literature program that is funded through a $1.5 million, three-year grant from the National Science Foundation, held its second National Institute in Portland, Ore., on Sept. 23-26. Libraries in 14 states, including nine state centers for the book and the District of Columbia, are collaborating on the project. Designed both to review the first year's work and to prepare for the second year, the five-day institute gave state teams the opportunity to expand their understanding of this informal science-through-children's-literature program for parents.

The institute differed in significant ways from last year's, which was held in Baltimore (see LC *Information Bulletin*, January 1999). A two-day preconference was held for the 25 professionals from various states who were recently recruited to participate in the project. Also, many of the workshops were conducted by veterans from participating states. Panels of professionals who were introduced to the project last year in Baltimore made presentations on topics such as "Involving Non-English Speakers," "A Second Look at Group Facilitation" and "Opportunities for Program Extensions."

The reports from the 71 participants were positive. Almost all states had met the goal of training 100 families in the Mother Goose books and science activities in the first year. More than half the states exceeded this goal by virtue of local fund-raising efforts, which enabled them to purchase and distribute more sets of books, activity guides and science kits. Reports from the field also indicated that programs had been very successful in engaging disadvantaged parents in reading and informal science activities with their children.

Reviewing the tasks accomplished and the work yet to be done, one participant commented, "We have a moral responsibility to provide access [to books and ideas] to all. With the "Mother Goose Asks 'Why?'" program, our mission has begun. Each participant is touching the lives of a few and those few will tell others ... [This is all because] a few took a chance on an idea and made it work." ◆

Teams from Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland participate in the "Mother Goose Asks 'Why?'" National Institute held this year in Baltimore.

Vermont Center for the Book

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
101 INDEPENDENCE AVE. S.E.
WASHINGTON, DC 20540-1610

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE $300

BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON, DC
PERMIT No. G-103

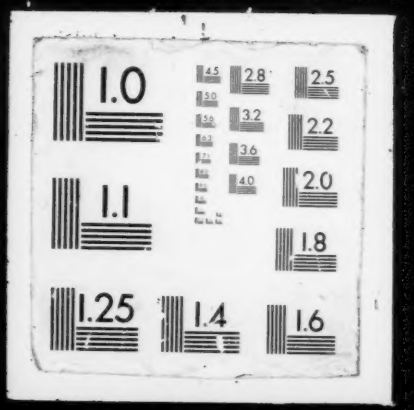
DATED MATERIAL

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
INFORMATION BULLETIN

ISSN 0041-7904

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list for this publication check here ☐ and return this page to the above address. If change is required enter on address label and return.

0044330 005
University Microfilms Intern'l
ATTN: Ronald Clowney
300 N. Zeeb Rd
Ann Arbor MI 48106


1.0
1.1
1.25
1.4
1.6
1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0
4.5
5.0
5.6